

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-35 remain pending in the application. Claims 25, 27, 32 and 35 have been amended. Claims 18-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form by including all the limitations of canceled claims 18-19.

Applicants appreciate that claims 20-26, 28-30 and 34-35 contain allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner. As mentioned before, allowable claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form and includes all the limitations of base/intervening claims 18-19. Claims 27 and 31-33 now depend upon allowable claim 20 directly or indirectly, therefore, claims 27 and 31-33 should be allowable.

Claims 25 and 35 are objected to because of the noted informalities. In response, claims 25 and 35 have been amended according to the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-19, 27 and 31-33 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Duboz et al. (Patent No. US 5,677,544). Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 18-19 is moot due to the cancellation of claims 18-19. Further, the rejection of claims 27 and 31-33 should be withdrawn, because claims 27 and 31-33 should be allowable for the reason presented above.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

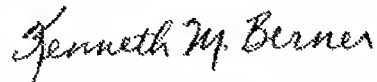
Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

**LOWE HAUPTMAN HAM & BERNER, LLP**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth M. Berner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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